

Appl. No. 10/017,852
Amendment Dated 2/18/2004
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2003 (Paper No. 6)

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 stand in this application. Claim 10 has been amended.

Reconsideration and allowance of the standing claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. EP1091550A2 (Shaffer). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Shaffer is directed to a technique to optimize selection of media stream mixing locations for a multipoint conferencing system. Shaffer, Col. 2: Lines 55-58. The optimizing may be based on network costs or endpoint coding resources. Id. at Col. 3: Lines 1-3. The optimizing occurs by selecting a multipoint control unit (MCU) to mix the different media streams. Id. at Col. 4: Lines 4-6.

Claims 1-9 and 14-19 represent patentable subject matter since Shaffer fails to disclose all the elements of claims 1-9 and 14-19. Claims 1-9 and 14-19 each recite, either directly or indirectly, the feature of creating an audio bridge session using an access number of a call terminal participating in the audio bridge session. Shaffer fails to disclose at least this feature. Rather, Shaffer focuses on selecting a MCU to optimize system resources. The Office Action states that this feature is shown by Shaffer in Col. 1: Lines 3-5 and Col. 5: Lines 21-23. Office Action, Page 2. Shaffer at Col. 1: Lines 3-5 states that “[t]he present invention relates to telecommunications systems and, particularly, to an improved system and method for multimedia conferencing.” Shaffer in Col. 5: Lines 21-23 states that “MCUC 105a, receives conference call setup requests, including, for example, identifications of the parties involved and their locations.” Both

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citations fail to discuss access numbers in any context, let alone creating an audio bridge session using an access number of a call terminal participating in the audio bridge session. The second citation makes reference to “identifications of the parties involved,” but there is no mention that this identification comprises an access number. Moreover, the identifications of the parties involved is not used as an access number to create an audio bridge, but rather it is used to search a database for information concerning MCUs related to the conferencing parties. Shaffer, Col. 5: Lines 23-25. Removal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 also represent patentable subject matter since Shaffer fails to disclose all the elements of claims 10-13. Independent claim 10 as amended recites “a gatekeeper connected to said gateway, said gatekeeper having a bridge table, said bridge table having an access number for a call terminal and information indicating whether said access number is also a bridge number.” Claims 11-13 depend from claim 10. Shaffer fails to disclose this feature for the same reasons given for claims 1-9 and 14-19. Removal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1-19 recite novel features not shown by the cited references. Further, Applicant submits that the above-recited novel features provide new and unexpected results not recognized by the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references.

It is believed that claims 1-19 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: 2/18/04.


Deborah Higham 2/18/04
Date

Dated: 2/18/04

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